



Join Us In Measuring Progress

A Monthly
Assessment Newsletter
August 2002

Special Session Funds Student Assessment

The 2002 Special Session of the legislature allocated funds for the state to pay for the 2003 Iowa Tests in grades 4, 8, and 11. Therefore, schools will not incur this \$200,000 cost.

New Items Online

- Analysis of the 2001 Iowa Tests Results
- 2002 Iowa Test Results: Preliminary statewide aggregated results
- Both available at: www.opi.state.mt.us/assessment/index.html

Montana Contact at Riverside

Karen Hines has returned as the Montana contact at Riverside Publishing Company. She replaces Jennifer Boyd.
Karen.Hines@hmco.com OR (800) 323-9540X7091



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Iowa Tests Results Online

OPI has implemented a new system for accessing test results online. The system, which has a series of pull down menus so each user can request specific data, will be available in three stages:

1. August 21: A secure site for each district to access its results. Instructions for districts to access and evaluate their data were emailed to districts August 21. The deadline for districts to review their data is August 27.
2. September 18: A public site enabling simple searches.
3. Date TBA: A public site enabling complex searches to disaggregated data.

**A BIG THANK YOU TO DISTRICTS FOR
MAKING STAGE ONE WORK.**

Welcome Back!



Criterion-Referenced Test NEWS

A criterion-referenced test is phase 2 of the Montana Comprehensive Assessment System (MontCAS). Measured Progress is the testing company selected for the statewide test which will be given to all Montana students in specific grades and subject areas in compliance with federal regulations, the Montana Title I Compliance Agreement and No Child Left Behind Act. Measured Progress and OPI will involve educators from across the state in all phases of the test development

Pilot and Testing Timeline

- Spring 2003: Pilot* Reading and Math in grades 3-8 and one grade in high school.
 - Spring 2004: Implementation of Reading and Math in Grades 4, 8, and one grade in high school.
 - Spring 2006: Implementation of Reading and Math in grades 3 and 5-7.
 - Spring 2008: Implementation of Science in grades 4, 8, and a high school grade.
- * Measured Progress will contact districts with specific information on the pilot tests and arrangements for participation.

Professional Development Information

Measured Progress will contact districts with specific details and arrangements for representatives from districts to attend.

EVENT	DATE	LOCATION	HOTEL
Teacher and Curriculum Director Workshops			
Standards Review	Sept 23	Helena	WestCoast Colonial Inn
Item Development	Sept. 24-26	Helena	WestCoast Colonial Inn
Administrator/Test Coordinator Workshops			
MontCAS Phase 2 Overview	Oct. 1	Great Falls	Holiday Inn
MontCAS Phase 2 Overview	Oct. 2	Missoula	Holiday Inn
MontCAS Phase 2 Overview	Oct. 3	Butte	Red Lion
MontCAS Phase 2 Overview	Oct. 1	Billings	Sheraton
MontCAS Phase 2 Overview	Oct. 2	Glendive	Best Western
Teacher Workshops			
Standards Based Classroom	Oct. 29	Great Falls	Holiday Inn
Standards Based Classroom	Oct. 30	Missoula	DoubleTree Hotel
Standards Based Classroom	Oct. 31	Bozeman	Holiday Inn
Standards Based Classroom	Nov. 5 (Date will be confirmed)	Glendive	Lodging: Best Western Meeting: Chamber of Commerce Eastern Plains Event Center
Standards Based Classroom	Nov. 7 (Date will be confirmed)	Billings	Sheraton
Item Review Group	Nov. 4-5	Billings	Sheraton
Additional Review Group	Nov. 6	Billings	Sheraton

Reading Review

Thanks to over 60 Montana educators who gave part of their summer to review potential reading passages for inclusion in the criterion-referenced test. This is one of the many ways that Montana educators will be involved in the development of the criterion-referenced test. Thank you for volunteering, participating, and for a job well done!

Assessment Sessions at October Professional Meetings

- Montana Counseling Association, October 17, Missoula
 - ✓ Tips for Training Classroom Test Administrators for Iowa Test Administration: Frosyne Mensendick, Riverside Publishing Company, and Judy Snow.
- MEA-MFT, October 17, Missoula
 - ✓ Native American Test Results: Joyce Silverthorne, Board of Public Education, and Judy Snow, OPI
 - ✓ Panel on Calculator Use on Assessments: Representatives from Riverside Publishing Company and Measured Progress, Higher Education, MCTM, and Montana math classrooms will discuss the use of calculators in assessment. Judy Snow, OPI, will moderate.
 - ✓ Introduction and Overview of the Criterion Referenced Test: Margaret Hill, Measured Progress; Jim Leffler, Northwest Regional Educational Lab; and Judy Snow, OPI

New Test Coordinator

If your district has a new test coordinator this year, please contact Judy Snow with the new name, email address, and phone number.

GED Participation Requested

The General Educational Development (GED) Testing Service will conduct an Item Tryout Study in the fall of 2002. GED will send letters to a sample of Montana schools asking them to participate. Test administration dates are to be scheduled by those schools any time between September 13 and November 22, 2002. Participation in the study will require about three to four hours of testing time from a sample of at least twenty (20) seniors. According to the GED, "this study is extremely important to the continued reliability and validity of the GED Testing Program."

Wanted: Math Teachers

Be a part of a statewide focus group on calculator use on assessments. Contact Judy Snow to participate [jsnow@state.mt.us OR (406) 444-3656]. The group will meet via conference call. Meetings will conclude by the end of 2002.

For further information, contact:
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